

PATENT
Szs&Z Ref. No.: IO031105PUS
Atty. Dkt. No. INFN/SZ0010

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 7, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 7, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1-34 remain pending following entry of this response.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 12-14, 16, 18, 20-31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lehmann* (US Pat. 6,798,272 B2).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In this case, *Lehmann* does not disclose "each and every element as set forth in the claim". For example, *Lehmann* does not disclose method steps or circuits for asynchronously advancing a pointer past fuses that are not to be programmed to select fuses that are to be programmed, as recited in independent claims 1, 12, 20, and 31. While the Examiner cites col. 2, lines 28-32 and col. 3, lines 44-62, as teaching a fuse pointer circuit operating in this manner, Applicants submit neither these cited portions nor any other portion of *Lehmann* teach the recited claim elements.

Lehmann describes a system and method for utilizing a shift register for sequential fuse latch read and precharge (see, e.g., col. 2 lines 23-27). There is also brief mention of programming a fuse (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 33-35 and col. 4, lines 50-53) utilizing a fuse latch. However, there is no indication that any of these operations

PATENT
Szs&Z Ref. No. : IO031105PLUS
Atty. Dkt. No. INFN/SZ0010

can be carried out by asynchronously advancing a fuse pointer, as recited in the independent claims.

As *Lehmann* fails to teach a fuse pointer circuit configured to advance asynchronously past fuses (or method steps for asynchronously advancing a fuse pointer), Applicants submit independent claims 1, 12, 20, and 31, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 6, 9-11, 15, 17, 19, 32 and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

However, for reasons discussed above, Applicants submit these base claims are allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

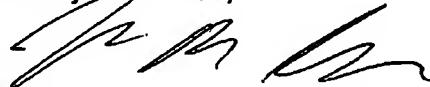
PATENT
SZS&Z Ref. No.: IO031105PUS
Atty. Dkt. No. INFN/SZ0010

Conclusion

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Randolph W. Read
Registration No. 43,876
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants

Page 10

400031_1